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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No. 09/273,256

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First Named Inventor: Kenji Suzuki

Examiner: Dwin M. Craig

Title: **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
AIDING PROGRAMMING** Attorney Docket No. PMS-258709

July 14, 2003

RECEIVED



Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313

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Technology Center 2100

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

In reply to the Office Action dated March 13, 2003 in the above-identified application, for which a one-month extension of time fee is provided herewith, and pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.111 and 1.112, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections are requested in view of the following Remarks.

REMARKS

In the Office Action of 03/13/2003, Claims 1-21 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Fishman (U.S. Patent No. 6,112,133) in view of Kahn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,866,635) and Cameron et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,412,583). Claims 1, 13, and 21 have been additionally rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yamazaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,401,004) in view of Cameron et al.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all of these rejections are respectfully requested for the reasons stated below. Fishman and Yamazaki et al. do not qualify as prior art with respect to the present application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 102(e). A U.S. Patent cited as a prior art reference must be filed in the U.S. "before the invention by the applicant for patent". Neither the U.S. filing date of Fishman nor the U.S. filing date of Yamazaki et al. was before the invention date of the present application.